

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

San Diego, California

*United States Attorney
Karen P. Hewitt*

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - January 16, 2008

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced the unsealing of a complaint charging fourteen individuals with federal narcotics violations, in connection with a Violent Gangs Task Force investigation. According to the complaint, Lee Vaughn Walker, a.k.a. "Lee Dog;" Melvin Alexander; Jose Galvan Rico; Eleodoro Castillo; Daphne Rosalinda Jackson; Bernal Anthony Mitchell; Allen Matthew Baker, Jr.; Michael Dwayne Tryals; Bobby Shawn Lockhart; Alexander Weir, IV; Alexander Weir, V; Felipe Medina; Melvin Andre Bibbs; and Mark Edward Runnels are each separately charged with Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine Base in the Form of Crack Cocaine. Walker, Alexander, Jackson, Mitchell, Lockhart, Weir, IV, and Runnels are also each charged with Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine. According to Assistant United States Attorney Andrew G. Schopler, who is prosecuting the case, several of the defendants are documented or suspected gang members, including members of both the West Coast Crips and the Lincoln Park Bloods.

Just after 6:00 a.m. this morning, in coordinated raids across the county, dozens of members of the Violent Crimes Task Force, in cooperation with local law enforcement agencies, arrested eleven of the named defendants and at least three other individuals suspected of drug trafficking. The defendants are scheduled to be arraigned tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. before United States Magistrate Judge Nita L. Stormes.

The charges stem from an investigation conducted by the San Diego Violent Crimes Task Force—Gang Group that began in 2007. The Task Force is a multi-agency law enforcement group consisting of agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), San Diego Police Department, San Diego County Sheriff’s Department, San Diego Probation Department, California Department of Corrections, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons, as well as the United States Attorney’s Office and the San Diego District Attorney’s Office.

DEFENDANTS

Case Number: 07MJ0132

Lee Vaughn Walker, a.k.a. “Lee Dog”
Melvin Alexander
Jose Galvan Rico, a.k.a. “Mija”
Eleodoro Castillo, a.k.a. “Onko”
Daphne Rosalinda Jackson, a.k.a. Daphne R. Rae
Bernal Anthony Mitchell, a.k.a. “Tony”
Allen Matthew Baker, Jr., a.k.a. “J.R.,” a.k.a. Tracy Reyard Diggs, a.k.a. Marcus Johnson
Michael Dwayne Tryals, a.k.a. “Texas Mike,” a.k.a. Michael Tryls, a.k.a. Dave Brooks, a.k.a. Leon Howard Blair, a.k.a. Earl David Hollis
Bobby Shawn Lockhart, a.k.a. “Blue”
Alexander Weir, IV, a.k.a. “Brick”
Alexander Weir, V, a.k.a. “Lil’ Brick”
Felipe Medina
Melvin Andre Bibbs
Mark Edward Runnels, a.k.a. “Marky Mark”

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Title 21, United States Code, Section 846(a)(1)—Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine Base in the Form of Crack Cocaine
Penalties: Mandatory minimum 10 years in prison, maximum life in prison, and a \$250,000 fine.

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846, 841(a)(1)—Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine
Penalties: Mandatory minimum 10 years in prison, maximum life in prison, and a \$250,000 fine.

AGENCIES

Federal Bureau of Investigation
San Diego Police Department
San Diego County Sheriff's Department
San Diego Probation Department
California Department of Corrections
Federal Bureau of Prisons

A complaint itself is not evidence that the defendants committed the crimes charged. The defendants are presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.